

former Executive Officer to Gen. David Petraeus, when he was commander of the multinational forces in Iraq had this to say about civilian service: "The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been difficult ventures, but the nation could not have achieved its objectives in either conflict without the support of American civilians, who came to the fight with a number of critical specialties and who shouldered more of the load than their numbers would suggest. The Nation owes our civilian veterans a great deal of gratitude for their service in the nation's wars since 9/11."

In September 2007 there were actually more contractors in Iraq than combat troops. According to a 2013 report of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR): "In September 2007, the United States had more than 170,000 combat personnel in Iraq as part of the counterinsurgency operation, with more than 171,000 contractors supporting the mission." These contractors are credited in the report for supporting "the counterinsurgency mission in unstable, yet strategically significant, areas such as Baghdad, Anbar, and Babylon provinces."

More and more civilians are serving in conflict zone jobs traditionally held by the military. This proximity to dangerous and unstable security situations has come with a cost. The New York Times reported on February 11, 2012 that, "More civilian contractors working for American companies than American soldiers died in Afghanistan last year for the first time during the war," reporting that "at least 430 employees of American contractors were reported killed in Afghanistan: 386 working for the Defense Department, 43 for the United States Agency for International Development and one for the State Department."

More recently, just last year four of these civilians became household names—U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, information officer Sean Smith, and CIA security contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty—when they were killed in Benghazi, Libya. Other civilian contractors were seriously wounded.

As with the military, casualties and serious injuries only tell part of the story. There are other costs associated with prolonged wars, including PTSD, depression and traumatic bereavement.

I was pleased to learn of the recent formation of an organization called We Served Too—a group dedicated to honoring and supporting American and international civilian service in conflict zones and high threat security environments.

Writing in the Huffington Post, author and professor Anne Speckhard reported that when Major General Arnie Fields was asked to comment on the founding of We Serve Too, he remarked on how the shift to asymmetrical warfare now places civilian workers in the same danger that front line soldiers traditionally faced:

The dynamics of war have considerably changed in recent years. The past ten years have been most significant. The parameters that have heretofore defined the battlefield or battle space have been dramatically altered. Military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan have learned early on that the conventional 'front' and 'rear', which in earlier wars defined the most dangerous areas of the battlefield and the safest, respectively, do not exist. The enemy's threat is virtually omnipresent. Soldiers not in direct pursuit of the enemy are in almost as much danger

as those who are. This new paradigm, often referred to as asymmetrical warfare, places civilians assisting in the war effort in about as much imminent danger as the traditional uniformed warrior. . . . For example, as a civilian department of State employee in Iraq and as the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, I wore my military flak jacket and helmet with more consistency while conducting my work than I did on active military duty in the Marine Corps.

Unlike soldiers who are trained and prepared to face armed conflict, civilians who serve alongside them are often ill-equipped for what they experience. This can have lasting implications even after their return home.

I am pleased to recognize We Served Too and commend their aim of supporting and honoring the civilians who served alongside their military counterparts.

While we don't often remember the sacrifices of civilian workers in conflict zones, we have an obligation to recognize that they too sacrificially served this country and their service is worthy of our gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 382 on July 23, 2013, regarding an amendment to H.R. 2397 offered by Representative Blumenauer of Oregon. I would have voted "yes."

2015 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after over a decade abroad, the Special Olympics World Games are returning to the United States. Two years from today, thousands of athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters will descend on Los Angeles to see and cheer the skills and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Special Olympics were started by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who saw how unjustly and unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated, and how many children with intellectual disabilities didn't even have a place to play. Her vision grew into the Special Olympics, and in 1968 the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago. For 45 years, the Special Olympics has harnessed the power of sport to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people.

I could not be prouder that my city and my country are hosting these games. And I want the athletes, their loved ones, and those with intellectual disabilities across the world to know that the United States House of Representatives is with them.

So today, two years before the 2015 Special Olympics World Games open, I am introducing a celebratory resolution with Representative

KENNEDY—who is continuing his family's commitment to the Special Olympics—Representative HOYER, and the full bipartisan Los Angeles delegation. I hope our colleagues will join us in supporting these games, and the achievements of those with intellectual disabilities everywhere.

HONORING BORING, OREGON AND DULL, SCOTLAND

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two communities who, though oceans apart, found a way to honor their shared identities. I am honored to represent one of these communities in Congress: Boring, Oregon, a small community a few miles outside of the Portland Metro region. The other is Dull, Scotland, in the northern United Kingdom.

These two communities share cultural and geographic similarities, in addition to their quirky names. Both communities lie at the base of prominent regional mountain ranges and neighbor cherished farmland. The county surrounding Boring, Oregon, Clackamas County, plays a prominent role promoting and hosting equestrian events and I am told the same is true of Dull, Scotland's Perth and Kinross Counties.

The Oregon Legislature recently passed House Bill 2352 establishing August 9 as Boring & Dull Day. As a result of this alliance, both communities have received significant attention and have seen growth in economic activity and tourism. I was delighted to be contacted by the Boring Community Planning Organization to share in a celebration honoring this occasion. It is my hope that this "Pair for the Ages" thrive well into future.

RETIREMENT OF FRANK SAMMARTINO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my ranking member, Congressman VAN HOLLEN in recognizing the service of Frank Sammartino, who is retiring on July 26th after 33 years of public service, with 26 of those years in Congressional service. Frank is currently the Assistant Director for Tax Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office, where he has worked for most of his career. Frank's first job in Washington was as a staff economist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. While there, he designed and developed a microsimulation model to analyze policies affecting Social Security, taxes, and means-tested transfers. Frank brought that modeling knowledge to CBO, where he developed the first microsimulation model used by the agency for analyzing tax policy. That model became the basis for CBO's individual income tax projections and its analysis of the